

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend paragraphs [0018] and [0019] as follows:

First representative embodiment is now described in reference to FIG. 1(a). FIG. 1(a) is a sectional view of a valve seat 2 used in a representative fuel injector as the first representative embodiment. In FIG. 1(a), a jet opening downstream channel is defined by a first channel 1b and a second channel 1c. The first channel 1b is formed in a region right below a jet opening 1a of a valve seat 1 and has a diameter D1. The diameter D1 of the first channel 1b is smaller than that of the jet opening downstream channel 5b of the known injector as shown in FIG. 2. If the diameter of the first channel 1b has a larger diameter such as a known fuel injector, the wall thickness C of the valve seat around the first channel will become smaller. Such a thinner wall can not more satisfactorily muffle the noise which is caused by contact of the valve with the valve seat. On the other hand, if the diameter of the first channel 1b is smaller than that of the jet opening downstream channel 5b of the known injector, fuel exhausted (injected) from the jet opening 1a will not be satisfactorily diffused, so that vaporization of fuel is impaired.

[0019]

Thus, according to the first representative embodiment, the optimum diameter D1 of the first channel 1b for satisfactory performance of the above-mentioned both functions is provided so as to be substantially double the diameter D2 of the jet opening 1a over the entire region of the first channel 1b. Specifically, according to the first embodiment, the first channel is arranged to have a diameter of substantially 3.0 mm, while the jet opening is arranged to have a diameter of 1.5 mm. Also, according to the first representative embodiment, the optimum length of the first channel 1b in its axial direction (right and left in FIG. 1(a)) is provided

so as to be substantially the same as or larger than the diameter D1 of the first channel. As a result, noise leakage to the outside can effectively be alleviated.